

Domestic Relations Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**

February 16, 2007

The Domestic Relations Committee met at the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, February 16, 2007 from 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. David A. Ault, David C. Chapleau, Nanette K. Raduenz, Frederick A. Schurger, Nicholas L. South and Michael P. Scopelitis, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Minutes approved. The minutes of the January 19, 2007 meeting were approved.
4. Domestic Relations Benchbook draft. Committee members completed review of the Domestic Relations Benchbook draft chapter on post decree actions. Mr. Bercovitz will distribute the revised post-decree chapter to members of the committee.
5. Recent legislation. Committee members discussed the penalty provisions of SB 329, concerning arrearages for unpaid income withholding orders.
6. Domestic Relations Conference in November. Committee members discussed ideas for a family dynamics/childhood development conference for judges, including:
  - a. Use of parenting coordinators.
  - b. Psychiatric medication of children and/or their parents.
  - c. Description of language used in psychiatric reports and/or custody evaluations, similar to the judicial conference for juvenile courts in June 2006.
  - d. Qualifications of experts in this area, the Daubert case applied to this area, or who is a qualified custody evaluator.
  - e. National perspective on alternative methods for administering cases with high conflict families, including the length of time to finalize dissolutions in high conflict families.Members of the committee agreed to contribute suggestions for a family dynamics/childhood development conference in addition to those outlined in the minutes to this office.
7. Next meeting dates. They agreed to meet on Friday, March 16, 2007 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center. Committee members cancelled the April meeting since the Spring Judicial College is on the same day. They agreed hold a two-day work-study session to be held Thursday, May 17 from 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Friday, May 18, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Indianapolis. The Center would pay mileage but no overnights for the two-day work-study session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law